



Consul General Dean Thompson and American Center Director Jeff Reneau with U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams at Science City.



## BULLETIN - MAY 2013



### Events at a Glance

**May 7**

**Film Show: Mad Hot Ballroom**  
(Kolkata)

**May 11**

**How to Read to your Children**  
(Kolkata)

**May 17**

**Documentary Film-making**  
(Kolkata)

**May 29-30**

**English language workshops**  
(Kolkata)

### Holiday

**May 27**

Memorial Day

### Your Date With U.S. History

#### WOMEN IN PRESS: GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MAGAZINE

The popular American women's magazine *Good Housekeeping* made its debut on May 2, 1885, one of several such magazines founded in the 1880s and 1890s. *Good Housekeeping* provided information about running a home, a broad range of literary offerings, and opportunities for reader input.

Founded by journalist-businessman Clark W. Bryan in Holyoke, Massachusetts, *Good Housekeeping* soon moved to Springfield. In 1911, with a circulation of 300,000, the magazine was purchased by the Hearst Publishing Company and moved to New York. In 2006, the magazine had approximately 4.6 million paid subscribers.

Well-known writers who have contributed to the magazine include Somerset Maugham, Edwin Markham, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Frances Parkinson Keyes, and Evelyn Waugh. Following the death of Calvin Coolidge, his widow, Grace Goodhue Coolidge, memorialized him in its pages. In an effort to stay close to its audience, many *Good Housekeeping* articles have been contributed by readers.

The magazine began testing and evaluating consumer goods and making recommendations to readers in 1900. This practice evolved when the magazine's consumer product evaluation laboratory became the Good Housekeeping Research Institute. The Institute gave out awards to products whose advertisements were reviewed and accepted for publication in *Good Housekeeping*.

Source: [memory.loc.gov](http://memory.loc.gov)



#### JOHN SCOPES AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM



On May 5, 1925, high school science teacher John Scopes was arrested for teaching evolution in one of Tennessee's public schools. Scopes had agreed to act as defendant in a case intended to test Tennessee's new law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in its public schools. While volumes of scientific evidence support the theory of evolution, many felt that it contradicted the story of creation as described in the Bible and thus did not want evolution taught in schools. The trial swiftly drew to a close. The jury took only nine minutes to return a verdict of guilty. When the defense appealed the verdict, the Tennessee State Supreme Court acquitted Scopes on a technicality but upheld the constitutionality of the state law. Not until 1967 did

Tennessee lawmakers overturn the law, finally allowing teachers to teach evolution.



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Offices are open 8 am - 5 pm; Monday - Friday  
The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

## YOUR TURN

*The Bulletin wants to hear from you ... your thoughts, your opinions, your feedback. Write in with*



*--a report of an American Center event you attended*

*--your experiences in cross-cultural encounters*

*--a photo that brings out the joys and sorrows of human life*

*--a human interest anecdote.*

*Only email submissions will be considered for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right of submission selection, editing and publication.*

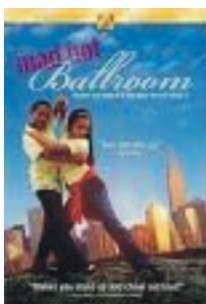
*Send your submissions by email to [kolkatapas@state.gov](mailto:kolkatapas@state.gov) by the 10th of each month.*

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

*Bipin Newar, CEO of Taaza TV, traveled to the U.S. on an exchange program on "Social Media Influencers." About his experience, he says: "Our 3-week program took us to Washington, DC, San Francisco, Miami, Burlington, and Manchester. We had a spectrum of meetings on our subject, including Government departments, TV stations, university teachers, and students. Home visits allowed us to have an interaction with common people. The icing on the cake was a peer to peer meeting with the owner of WCAX channel."*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FILM SHOW: MAD HOT  
BALLROOM**  
May 7, 3 p.m.



The American Center presents a screening of the documentary *Mad Hot Ballroom*, followed by an interactive session with the audience. *Mad Hot Ballroom* is a thoroughly charming, uplifting, and inspiring documentary that celebrates youthful perseverance. Film-makers Marilyn Agrelo and Amy Sewell chronicle the annual fifth-grade ballroom dancing competition in New York City's public school system, concluding with a citywide competition held at the World Financial Center. *All are welcome!*

**Contact: 3984-6392 or [dassx@state.gov](mailto:dassx@state.gov)**

**How to Read to your Children**  
May 11, 10 a.m.: American Center Library

The American Center presents an interactive session by Jane Thompson on the tools and techniques for reading to children and encouraging a lifelong love of books. Jane is an Early Intervention Specialist who works with families and children with special needs. She conducts seminars and workshops on parenting skills, nurturing specific areas of development, and recognition of developmental milestones and warning signs. We will also showcase our new additions to the children's collection. *This program is for adults only! Open to all! No pre-registration required!*



**Documentary Film-making**  
May 17, 6 p.m.: American Center



The American Center presents an interactive session by Indian-American film-maker Kavary Kaul titled, "Documentary Film-making to Promote Social Change." Kavary produces and directs documentaries that have been screened internationally. Kavary's films are often driven by characters who straddle multi-layered realities and apparent contradictions. *All are welcome!*

**Contact: 3984-6392 or [dassx@state.gov](mailto:dassx@state.gov)**

**English Language Workshops**  
May 29-30, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.: American Center

English Language Fellow Joseph Dwaileebe conducts workshops titled "The Communicative ESL Classroom." *Advance registration required.*



**Contact: 3984-6392 or [dassx@state.gov](mailto:dassx@state.gov)**

***All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.***



## Exchange Programs Corner

Seemana Bhattacharya, Senior Research Fellow at the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata; and Archana Moni Das and Swapnali Hazarika, scientists at the North-East Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat, Assam; traveled to the U.S. to participate in an International Visitor Leadership Program on "Women in Science," April 8-26. They were joined in the program by two other scientists from India. The objective of the program was to illustrate women's contributions to scientific innovation, education, leadership, and public policy formation; introduce effective educational and mentorship programs that encourage girls and young women to pursue science-oriented careers; and explore the role of professional development societies and organizations in promoting scientific careers among women.

## COMPELLING ADDITIONS TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY'S YOUNG ADULT COLLECTION



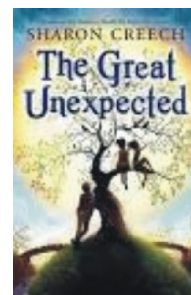
**UNGIFTED** by Gordon Korman. HarperCollins, 2012. 280 pp. The story is told from the points of view of various characters, and readers hear from teachers, administrators,

students, and family members. The message is tolerance, and Korman expertly and humorously delivers it in as an unpretentious and universally appealing tale.



**MY BOOK OF LIFE BY ANGEL** by Martine Leavitt. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012. 244 pp. In this novel in verse, Leavitt has created in Angel's voice a perfect mix of innocence and experience, a blend

that is underscored by seamlessly introducing passages into her narrative from Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The story is loosely based on the epidemic of murders that began in Vancouver in 1983 and continued through 2002.



**THE GREAT UNEXPECTED** by Sharon Creech. Joanna Cotler Books, 2012. 226 pp. As two very different worlds are woven together, Newberry Medal winner Sharon Creech celebrates the gossamer thread that

connects us all, and the great and unexpected gifts of love, friendship, and forgiveness.



**SPLENDORS AND GLOOMS** by Laura Amy Schlitz. Candlewick Press, 2012. 384 pp. Two orphans, a witch, and a girl who laughs at death: each shares the lens of the protagonist in Newberry winner Schlitz's fully satisfying gothic novel. Schlitz's prose is perfect in every stitch, and readers will savor each word. The book builds slowly and ends stunningly.

**THE BRIDES OF ROLLROCK ISLAND** by Margo Lanagan. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. 305 pp. The story follows the generations of the Misskaella and Mallett families. When several sons unite to steal back the seal coats, the moms weave seaweed blankets and wrap their sons, so all can transform into seals together, leaving the human men behind. Lanagan's writing is undeniably gorgeous. Her phrases and pacing make the reader stop and admire their beauty.



## UNITED STATES - INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF) announces its annual competition for the Fulbright-Nehru and other Fulbright Fellowships for Indian citizens for the academic year 2014-15. Open to students, academics, teachers and professionals, these fellowships are offered in a wide range of fields. **Application**

**due dates begin July 1, 2013.** Details about the fellowship programs, application procedures, guidelines, and selection process are posted on the USIEF website [www.usief.org.in](http://www.usief.org.in).

**Contact: 3984-6309 or [shevanti@usief.org.in](mailto:shevanti@usief.org.in)**



## American Center Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate](http://www.facebook.com/kolkata.usconsulate)

In an age of social media, the American Center is delighted to draw your attention to its Facebook Page. This page is designed not only to promote upcoming events, programs, interactive sessions, and releases of new books and articles at the American Center, but also to get feedback from our audiences through their active participation in online conversations and opinion polls.

To avail yourself of information about upcoming events or to interact with us, please join our over 20,000 fans by following the above-mentioned link and "Like" us!

## Surf On Our Turf

The American Library invites you to blog at:



<http://blogs.usembassy.gov/kolkata/>

Join our online discussion forum to share your thoughts on what you have read, recommend books to read, and get information on the library's recent additions and events.

## WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

May 3 marks World Press Freedom Day, representing an opportunity to commemorate the principles of press freedom and to pay solemn tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. In the United States, freedom of expression is enshrined in its laws and protected by the Constitution. The United States has always defended the universal human right to freedom of expression, including when speech is offensive. The most effective antidote to offensive expression is more expression, and the open public debate of ideas.

Video is one of the most powerful tools of social expression. Though they may have different objectives, professional journalists, documentary film-makers and social activists alike use the power of video to tell stories, have an impact on audiences and effect change. Experts say that understanding the audience is critical to developing a successful message. You need to do thorough research on a particular issue and get to know how it impacts yourself, your peers, your family and your community. The next consideration in developing your message is access. "Do I have the ability to go to this community right now? Can I build relationships with people there? Is that the best story for me to be telling?" are all questions you should be asking, says Brandon Kramer, co-founder of Meridian Hill Pictures, a documentary production company that works with communities to tell their stories and effect positive change. Once you understand your issue and have access to the story, think about whose perspective will have the greatest impact on your audience. Centering your message on the story of an individual who has been affected by your issue makes it more interesting and accessible. Finally, end your video with a call to action.



## APRIL IN PICTURES



Information Resource Officer Linda Parker addresses students of Apeejay School, Kolkata.



Students respond to a question posed by American Library director Sushanta Banerjee at the finale of the American Center Spelling Bee at South City International School, Kolkata.

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